

To: Hauptman, Mel[Hauptman.Mel@epa.gov]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Thur 7/14/2016 10:30:52 PM
Subject: Fwd: POFA/PFOS - Hoosick Falls Clips

U receive these each morning , right ?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shore, Berry" <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>
Date: July 14, 2016 at 8:55:54 AM EDT
To: "R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff)" <R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov>
Subject: POFA/PFOS - Hoosick Falls Clips

EPA Sets New Lower Standard for PFOA, PFOS Levels in Drinking Water

Posted by Roopal Luhana

July 13, 2016 10:32 AM

The Legal Examiner

When the Environmental Protection Agency suggested in 2015 that the community of Hoosick Falls, New York, aim to have no more than 100 parts per trillion (ppt) of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in their drinking water, people were confused.

In 2009, the EPA had set a suggested upper limit of 400 ppt. Why were they suddenly suggesting a much lower figure?

It turns out the EPA had been conducting their own studies, as well as reviewing other studies, on the dangers of PFOA and other polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFCs)—a family of chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in various commercial applications. Surfactants, lubricants, paper and textile coatings, polishes, food packaging and fire-retarding foams all contain PFCs.

These chemicals have been found to be long-lived in the environment, to be toxic to

aquatic life, and to be linked to serious health hazards in humans, including ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, and some cancers. Yet, they remain unregulated by the government.

Because of the health hazards, public advocacy groups have been calling on the EPA to publish a new recommendation for maximum PFOA levels that takes into account the latest research. The EPA finally did that on May 19, 2016.

EPA Extensively Studied PFOA and PFOS

According to their website, the EPA has established health advisories for two of the most concerning PFCs—PFOA and PFOS. The administration now advises that drinking water contain no more than 70 ppt of either of these chemicals, and of the two combined.

The new advisories are based on the “agency’s assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science to provide drinking water system operators, and state, tribal and local officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing these systems, with information on the health risks of these chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents,” the EPA stated.

Of all the PFCs, PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied. Most people have been exposed to them in one way or another, usually from consumer products and food that contain them, though water contamination is another possible source.

Between 2000 and 2002 most manufacturers phased out their production of PFOS, and in 2006, most also agreed to phase out PFOA. There are a limited number of PFOA-related chemicals still in use, however. For example, a number of firefighting foams also still contain them (many military sites are now looking into alternative foams).

Communities Working to Clear PFOA Contamination

Meanwhile, local areas have been hard at work identifying contaminated water and installing filtration systems to clean up affected areas. On March 13, 2016, for example, the New York Times reported that the new filter system installed in Hoosick Falls had successfully cleared the PFOA from the municipal water supply.

According to The Intercept, the Security Water and Sanitation District in Colorado Springs, where 142 tests detected PFCs, has shut down 7 out of 26 wells and is blending water to lower levels.

Other areas, however, are still struggling. Recent tests showed PFOS contamination at 200 ppt in Scottsdale Arizona. Experts believe the contamination originated from firefighting foam used by the Oatman Fire Department, but as of this writing, the community was still seeking a solution. The military, on the whole, is working on a mass cleanup of 664 training sites potentially contaminated with PFCs (most likely from firefighting foams).

PFOA found in 2 more Vt. industrial sites

Updated: Jul 13, 2016 12:35 PM EDT

By WCAX News

ESSEX, Vt. -

Potentially dangerous levels of the chemical PFOA have been found at two more industrial sites in Vermont.

The governor's office reports positive tests of perfluorinated compounds in eight groundwater monitoring wells on the IBM campus in Essex Junction.

The chemical was also found in high levels in wells at the Champlain Cable

property in Colchester. PFOA was believed to have been used there when the plant was operated by the Hercules chemical and munitions company.

State officials believe all of the residents near those sites are served by clean, municipal drinking water systems.

Companies to start state required cleanup efforts in Hoosick Falls

By Edward Damon

Posted: 07/12/2016 09:40:01 PM EDT

Manchester Journal (New Hampshire)

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. >> Representatives of one company the state says is responsible for PFOA contamination will soon be in the village for cleanup efforts.

Both companies are expected to soon start requesting residents' permission to start testing groundwater on their property.

Honeywell International representatives will be staging an area within the next week, according to Mayor David Borge. The company will set up a trailer at the end of John Street near a former manufacturing plant it owns.

Representatives of Honeywell will begin knocking on doors and mailing letters requesting residents' permission to go onto their property, he said. Sample forms and letters will be posted on the village website in advance.

"I think the important point is that both Honeywell and Saint Gobain are being directed to move forward with their actual studies, get the groundwork done," Borge said during Tuesday night's Village Board meeting.

On June 1, representatives of Saint-Gobain and Honeywell signed the legally enforceable consent orders that also required they negotiate with the village within 45 days, or until July 16.

"We're in the final stages of working that through," Borge said.

While state officials look towards holding the companies accountable for pollution that may have taken place over decades, they're also searching for another water source to replace the three wells that are close to Saint-Gobain's McCaffrey Street plant.

Jim Quinn with the state Department of Environmental Conservation's remediation programs said the agency isn't waiting for Saint-Gobain or Honeywell.

"We're moving forward and they're trying to catch up to speed with us."

He said they need more information about mapping the contamination plume.

Responding to resident Kevin Allard's inquiry about news reports of elevated PFOA level at the former landfill on Walnut Street, Quinn said the formal sampling result data should be released soon.

Quinn said, to his knowledge, water from a groundwater sampling well at the capped landfill is tested routinely. Elevated levels of PFOA were found in the latest round of testing.

The landfill reportedly had a level of 21,000 parts per trillion, the highest found in the village to date. The next highest of 18,000 ppt was in a testing well at Saint-Gobain's McCaffrey Street facility. A capped landfill in Petersburg reportedly had 4,000 ppt.

Contact Edward Damon at 802-447-7567, ext. 111.

DEC: High PFOA levels found at Hoosick Falls dump

By Lindsay Nielsen

Published: July 12, 2016, 4:31 pm | Updated: July 12, 2016, 6:14 pm

News 10 ABC Albany

Complete Coverage: Hoosick Falls water contamination crisis

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. (NEWS10) – The DEC outlined their investigation into the sources of PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls to NEWS10 ABC on Tuesday.

DEC Officials say one water sample at monitoring wells at the former Hoosick Falls Municipal landfill came back at 21,000 ppt of PFOA, 300 times the higher than the EPA advisory level.

“Hoping that a lot of the younger people I guess I feel will have better luck,” Janice Tate, of Hoosick Falls, said.

Tate wants a safer future for the next generation in her village, one free of water poisoned with the toxic chemical PFOA.

Officials have also sampled illegal dumping sites, farming, and other industrial sites.

2016 PFOA Sample Results Near Landfill in Hoosick Falls

The DEC says it does not believe that PFOA at the landfill is impacting municipal drinking water or private wells. They believe the main source of contamination is the McCaffrey Street site that is now owned by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics.

Tate says she worked there for eight years when it was by Oak Mitsui.

One man who did not want to go on camera says he worked at the site in the 1970s and recalls dumping the hazardous chemical down the floor drains.

“Through the ongoing investigation, the state and responsible parties will be looking at all past practices at these facilities,” NYS DEC Chief of Staff Peter Walke said.

A spokesperson for Saint-Gobain sent the following in an e-mail to NEWS10 ABC:

“ Following the approval by the NYS DEC, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics will implement a Site Characterization Work Plan at the Liberty Street site which is scheduled to begin on or about July 18th. The work is part of the investigation into the source or sources of groundwater contamination. The Liberty Street site is one of two sites in Hoosick Falls owned by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. We understand that other sites not owned by Saint-Gobain where fluoropolymers materials were processed within Hoosick Falls are also going to be investigated. We will continue to cooperate with local, state, and federal officials as we have since first learning of the situation so that the residents of Hoosick Falls can continue to access clean drinking water.”

The DEC sent the following statement:

through DEC's ongoing Superfund investigation into PFOA contamination in the Hoosick Falls area, DEC has undertaken extensive sampling of the Hoosick River, the now closed Hoosick Falls Municipal landfill and other locations throughout the town including tips of illegal dumping sites, farms and other industrial sites. The attached map includes sampling results of the Landfill and Hoosick River in the vicinity of the landfill, and shows elevated readings of PFOA in landfill monitoring wells including one high sample of 21,000 ppt.

The initial sample results of river water up and down stream of the landfill do not indicate that PFOA from the landfill is impacting water quality in the Hoosick River or wells feeding the municipal water supply or private homes. DEC is refining and focusing our investigation based on these sampling results, to determine how the elevated contamination levels observed at the landfill monitoring wells are impacting the surrounding area, and identify those responsible for this contamination.

DEC is now examining historical records of surrounding companies that may have disposed industrial wastes in the landfill and will aggressively pursue those responsible for this pollution. DEC will require any responsible parties identified to undertake a full investigation of the landfill and determine the full nature and extent of the contamination as they develop the appropriate remediation plan to clean up their mess. DEC will ensure that as we make those responsible for the contamination pay for the remediation there is no additional contamination in the public water system, which is regularly tested, from this area of contamination.

High PFOA levels found at old landfill

By Heather Kovar | Tuesday, July 12th 2016

News Channel 6 CBS Albany

HOOSICK FALLS--People in Hoosick Falls are reacting to some of the highest PFOA numbers recently released by DEC.

Levels coming out of the old landfill are more than 300 times the safe level set by the state.

Those who used to play in an old swimming hole next to the landfill; want more than the scheduled hearings, they want action.

Loreeen Hackett has lived in Hoosic Falls most of her life. She says back in the early 80's she used to swim in this water.

"We used to watch the turtles coming in and out. It was just amazing. We had a rope swing, it was fantastic," said Hackett.

The area she is talking about is just behind the old dump, which is now the transfer station. Hackett describes how she saw her high school spot get spoiled.

"It was green and like an oily slime that started coming in, and we knew it had to be coming from the dump."

The DEC says PFOA levels from testing the land of the old dump are 21- thousand parts per trillion.

The state has set safe water levels at 70 ppt.

The DEC tells me the sample results of river water up and down stream of the landfill do not indicate that PFOA from the landfill is impacting water quality in the Hoosic River or wells feeding the municipal water supply or private homes.

"It scares me to imagine between that knowing we are swimming in it, the factories were going at the time, what our levels would have been back then," said Hackett.

Over in Petersburg, the town released preliminary numbers of water coming off its old landfill - at 440 parts per trillion.

The DEC says it is still verifying those, and will release confirmed levels soon.

Hackett says she wants to see some accountability.

The DEC says it is refining and focusing its investigation, to determine how the elevated contamination levels observed at the landfill monitoring wells are impacting the surrounding area, and identify those responsible.

Back in March, the State officials gave the Hoosick Falls water supply a clean bill of health.

Info meeting for PFOA blood testing to be held next week

July 11, 2016

Union Leader (New Hampshire)

Although state officials have promised that blood testing will start in mid-July for people exposed to perfluorochemicals, an information meeting about the testing process won't take place until July 19.

State officials announced the meeting for a week from today, scheduled for 7 p.m. at Campbell High School. Health and environment officials are expected to lay out the blood testing process and give an overview of the investigation of PFC contamination in southern New Hampshire. State officials will take questions after their presentation.

In the meantime, residents can register to have their blood tested at the public inquiry line at 271-9461, officials said in a release.

“Specific information about the process to receive blood testing will be made available to residents soon,” reads a release issued Monday by state health and state environment officials.

Blood testing is limited to residents of Amherst, Bedford, Litchfield, Manchester and Merrimack who live on streets served by private wells that have registered more than 70 parts per trillion of PFOA and PFOS.

Blood testing is also available to people worked at, lived on, or attended child care on the Pease Tradeport, where a well was found to have elevated levels of PFCs in May 2014.

Unwell Water: Everything you need to know about area well contamination

July 14, 2016

Bucks County Courier Times

Over the past two years, 16 public wells and about 140 private wells have been shut down by contamination from perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate. The former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham, along with the active Horsham Air Guard Station, are thought to be the source of the taint.

This news organization has been investigating and writing extensively on the topic, telling the stories of local people who believe they've been sickened by the chemicals, speaking with health experts on the potential toxicity of the chemicals, and examining the actions taken by local, state and federal agencies as they address the contamination.

As a public service, we will make this content available to subscribers and non-subscribers.

Warrington announces special water meeting

By Chris Ullery

Levels of PFOA and PFOS in open Warrington Wells:

- Well 5: 9.6 ppt PFOA, 10 ppt PFOS
- Well 8: 9.9 ppt PFOA, 11 ppt PFOS
- Well 11: 9.5 ppt PFOA and PFOS

Warrington supervisors announced the time and location for a special meeting on water contamination during the board's regular meeting Tuesday night.

Similar to meetings in Horsham, supervisors told residents who have questions and concerns about the contamination of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) to attend the meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at Central Bucks South High School.

The Warrington Water and Sewer Department shut down five of the township's nine wells between October 2014 and May after tests revealed contamination levels of the perfluorinated compounds above health advisory levels.

Provisional limits set for drinking water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2009 of 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA and 0.2 ppb parts per billion of PFOS prompted the shutdown of wells 1, 2 and 6 in 2014. The EPA issued new limits of 0.07 ppb for both compounds on May 19, prompting the shutdown of wells 3 and 9.

The source of the contamination has been linked to firefighting foams used at the former the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base, which is across the border in Horsham, the Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the active Horsham Air Guard Station.

Christian Jones, director of the water and sewer department, said all well shutdowns were done the same day they were informed of the contamination in 2014 and the same day the EPA changed its limits in May.

Jones said the township's water department tests wells quarterly during the year. Specifics of possible remediation of the wells was being reviewed and would likely be a topic at the meeting.

Tim Bergere, environmental counsel for Warrington and Warminster, addressed some of the public's comments regarding what was known about the PFCs on Tuesday night.

He said there is an intense investigation underway to track the migration of PFCs in groundwater, and an ongoing study has been performed to find out the health impacts of the compounds.

"One of the things that's unfortunate with emerging contaminants ... is that these contaminants are out there and the EPA and DEP are struggling to keep up with the health effects," Bergere said.

Residents who want to have a private well tested may contact Keith Freihofer, environmental restoration program manager with the Air National Guard, at 240-612-8762.
